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*Refugees from the Punjab.*

* 127 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have given any undertaking to the Central Government to 'take in' refugees from the Punjab;

(*b*) what arrangements have been made for housing, clothing and feeding the refugees;

(*c*) how many refugees are intended to be provided for, and for how long;

(*d*) what is the estimated cost of the arrangements;

(*e*) what precautions have been taken against the refugees bringing in (i) contagious diseases such as cholera, (ii) weapons or firearms, and (iii) inflammatory literature; and

(*f*) whether the Government have taken precautions against the refugees spreading alarmist rumours or news that would rouse up communal hatred?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) Yes. The undertaking given extends to refugees from Sind and the North-West Frontier Province also.

" (*b*) *Accommodation.*—The following camps have been opened for housing refugees :—

'*Lutterals Gardens,' Kilpauk.*—It is estimated that this will accommodate about 500 refugees and it is proposed to use this as a Transit Camp.

'*Holiday Home,' Saidapet.*—This camp has just been obtained from the military on loan. It is estimated that it can accommodate about 500 refugees.

It is proposed to take over the Emigration Depot at Avadi also which can accommodate about 3,000 refugees. The Malayan Union Government have kindly consented to place this camp at our disposal for the purpose. Other camps will be selected if necessary after they are made ready for occupation.

*Clothing.*—It is proposed to supply two sets of clothes to each refugee according to what he or she is accustomed to wear. The Government have sanctioned Rs. 50,000 for purchase of clothes for refugees. The Textile Commissioner has allotted 64 bales of cloth for this purpose and they are being purchased. They will be stitched into garments at a cheap rate in the prisons through the Jail Department.

*Feeding.*—The refugees are paid fixed allowances for food according to the rates mentioned below :—

| | Per day. RS. | A. | P. |
|---|---|---|---|
| **One adult** .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| **Each additional adult in a family** .. .. | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| **Each child below 12 years of age** .. .. .. | 0 | 10 | 0 |

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The Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society and the City Rationing Officer have opened a ration shop at the 'Lutterals Gardens' from which the refugees purchase their rations and other necessary articles of food. A firewood depot also has been opened by the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society in this camp.

Similar arrangements are being made for the 'Holiday Home' at Saidapet.

"(c) It is intended to provide for not more than 10,000 refugees for a short period until conditions settle down in the North.

"(d) No definite estimate of the cost of the arrangements can be drawn up now as it depends on how many refugees will be sent down and how long they will stay here. This Government have set apart Rs. 1 lakh as their contribution and out of it have sanctioned so far Rs. 50,000 for clothing, Rs. 11,500 for repairs and other expenses connected with the camps and Rs. 10,000 on feeding at the rate mentioned in the answer to clause (b). A special staff of one Deputy Collector and one Executive Engineer with subordinate staff has also been sanctioned for three months.

"(e) (i) The Central Refugee Committee, Delhi, has been asked to inoculate all persons against cholera and re-vaccinate them before they are despatched to Madras. If this is not done the Corporation Health Staff and the health staff of the Director of Public Health will do this as soon as the refugees arrive here.

(ii) & (iii) The officer in charge of the camp and the police are taking sufficient precaution in this matter.

"(f) Necessary precautions have already been taken. The refugees are strictly warned against spreading alarmist rumours."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"May I ask, since Rs. 1 lakh seems to be very small for expenditure of this nature and as it is likely to be exceeded, what arrangements Government propose to make to meet the extra expenditure?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"We do not know exactly what the expenditure would be; we have provided a lakh of rupees; of course, further sums, if necessary, will be provided for."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—"May I know how many refugees are now here in Madras?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"As far as I understand, not very many at present."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know whether the Madras Government expect any contribution from the Central Government for the maintenance of these refugees?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"If the expenditure goes up to a large extent, we will be entitled to ask for contribution."

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SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Are the Government in correspondence with the Central Government on the question of contribution from the Central funds? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Not as yet, Sir; because the number of refugees is not very large at the present time."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that in the various districts, public subscriptions were called for and collected and blankets have been purchased and are being despatched? May I know whether similar arrangements could be made in other districts? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Blankets are purchased for use by refugees in the northern provinces because of the cold weather. I do not think the necessity for use of blankets in this part of the country will arise."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are not the mornings cold nowadays, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I do not think so, Sir; personally I do not use a blanket myself."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is there any proposal to settle these refugees on land here, or assign any land to them? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" No, Sir; as found in the answer at the end, they are only temporarily here, because there are language difficulties, etc., and the question of settlement in this Province has not arisen."

*Number of declarations for starting newspapers, etc., in the city.*

* 128 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) how many declarations for starting newspapers and periodicals were filed in Madras City since March 1947;

(b) how many of them were (i) dailies, (ii) weeklies, (iii) monthlies, and (iv) other periodicals; and

(c) whether securities were required to be deposited in the case of any of them, and for what reasons?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (a) The total number of declarations filed for starting newspapers and periodicals in Madras City since March 1947 is 242.

" (b) Details of the total number of newspapers and periodicals are as follows :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Dailies | 7 |
| Weeklies | 67 |
| Monthlies | 136 |
| Bi-weekly | 1 |
| Fortnightly | 29 |
| Quarterly | 1 |
| Half-yearly | 1 |
| | 242 |